

dissolvable -.

REMARKS

Claims 47 - 65 are pending in the application.

The "whereas" clause at the end of claims 47 and 54 has been slightly amended to indicate that at least one of a different temperature and a different concentration, the organic component is completely dissolvable in the water so as to form an optically clear liquid. This clarifies that under certain conditions, i.e. conditions that differ from those that prevail during cleaning, the organic component of the inventive liquid cleaning composition forms a true solution in water; this is in distinct contrast to some of the prior art cleaning compositions, which do not form a true solution under any conditions.

Independent claims 47 and 54 define a liquid cleaning composition that comprises at least 65% by weight water, as well as an organic component containing molecules having lipophilic and hydrophilic groups, wherein at a temperature that prevails during a cleaning process, the organic component is present in the water at a concentration greater than its miscibility in the water.

From the above, it can be seen that a miscibility gap exists at the cleaning temperature, for example at a temperature of from 40 to 60°C, which is the temperature that prevails during a cleaning process.

With regard to support in the originally filed specification for the "at least 65% by weight water" feature of independent claims 47 and 54, and the ratio of claim 55, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the first paragraph at the top of page 6 of the original specification.

The inventive composition, namely a liquid cleaning composition, provides a surprisingly excellent cleaning performance, which is at least as good as that of pure solvent (the organic component) and of pure water, and in most cases is even superior to the pure solvent or pure water; all of this is accomplished with a relatively low content of organic component in the inventive liquid cleaning composition.

With regard to the cited art, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 47 and 54 are fully distinguishable over such art. The features of claims 47 and 54 are in no way taught or suggested by such art.

In particular, with regard to EP 0 475 596, this reference does not teach or suggest bringing into contact with an article that needs cleaning a liquid cleaning composition, and in particular such a composition that comprises at least 65% by weight water, and an organic component that at the temperature that prevails during a cleaning process is present in the water at a concentration greater than its miscibility in the water.

With regard to WO 96/28535, this reference also does not teach or suggest a liquid cleaning composition of at least 65% by weight water and an organic component that at a temperature that prevails during a cleaning process is present in the water at a concentration greater than its miscibility in the water.

In fact, this reference actually teaches the opposite of the present invention, and hence teaches away from the inventive liquid cleaning composition as defined in claims 47 and 54. In particular, this reference requires the presence of water in an organic solvent in a concentration of the water that is greater than the miscibility of the water in the solvent. This is, of course, the opposite of having the organic

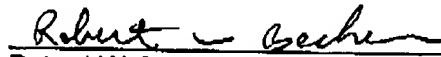
component present in a concentration that is greater than the miscibility of the organic component in the water.

As further evidence of the distinction between the present invention and the compositions of the prior art, Applicant can also provide evidence of commercial success based specifically on the claimed limitation that at a temperature that prevails during a cleaning process, the organic component is present in the water at a concentration greater than its miscibility in the water.

The Examiner has requested a substitute specification, and such a substitute specification will be submitted as soon as possible.

Although Applicant respectfully submits that the present independent claims 47 and 54 are clearly distinguishable over the prior art, should the Examiner have any further questions, comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call from him in order to be able to discuss appropriate claim language that would place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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